



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.1801 | FAX (517) 373.5801

[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/hardiman/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/hardiman/)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

**Contact:** Kim Erdelyi

(517) 373-1801

## **SENATOR HARDIMAN VOTES TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY**

*Tuition scholarships for private schools restored as well*

LANSING – State Senator Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood, as a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education reported House Bill 4396 (S-1) out of committee today that increased per pupil funding for Grand Valley State University (GVSU). HB 4396 (S-1) provides funding for all 15 of Michigan's public universities. Under the Senate proposal, GVSU would receive \$4006 per student in state funding, an increase of \$550 over the current year. Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema (R-Wyoming) and committee chair Senator Mike Goschka (R-Brant) worked with Senator Hardiman to garner support for these changes.

"This has been one of my legislative priorities to bring all public universities to a minimum \$4000 per student," said Hardiman. "I have been working with my colleagues to reverse the historic under funding at GVSU and other universities. Today, we took the first step towards equity for higher education funding in this state."

The subcommittee also rejected Governor Granholm's plan to sharply reduce tuition scholarships at private colleges, like Calvin, Aquinas, Cornerstone, and Davenport in the Grand Rapids area. The private college scholarships will be reduced slightly under the Senate's proposal, but will still provide much needed support for these students. "Families who send their children to private colleges pay taxes as well," said Hardiman. "I strongly believe the state should help those families offset some tuition costs as well as for students who attend our other higher education institutions."

HB 4396 (S-1) will be considered by the full Senate Appropriations Committee as early as next week.

###